

STATE SENATOR . MICHAEL PRUSI . 38TH DISTRICT

Prusi Press Release

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PRUSI COMPROMISE SIGNED BY GRANHOLM

Iron County demonstration project to continue, judges move to full-time status

LANSING –Governor Granholm today signed State Senator Mike Prusi’s (D-Ishpeming) compromise between House and Senate leadership to include full-time probate judges for Baraga, Iron, and Ontonagon Counties. Currently, the probate judges in these counties are part-time. The compromise will allow the 5-year judicial demonstration project in Iron County, established in 1999, to continue. By creating these full-time judgeships, the legislature is helping to alleviate an increasing caseload on an already busy system.

“I want to thank Senator Prusi for his guidance on this legislation that will help us move probate judges to full-time status in several northern Michigan counties,” Granholm said. “Our judicial system will be made more effective and efficient under this new law.”

Effective January 2, 2007, Senate Bill 823 will convert nine probate judges from around the state to full-time status. Other counties benefiting from the compromise include Alcona, Benzie, Missaukee, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Presque Isle. By creating a funding mechanism for counties to afford these full-time judges, Iron County is able to continue its project without waiting until 2007. In addition to local input, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has recommended this course of action for all nine counties.

“Governor Granholm and her Administration exhibited strong leadership in working with my colleagues to secure this compromise,” said Senator Prusi. “Our communities will benefit greatly from this legislation.”

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.